



Montana

## Department of Labor and Industry

Commissioner's Office

Michelle Robinson - Communications Director  
(406)-444-1520  
mirobinson@mt.gov  
Fax: (406)-444-1394  
P.O. Box 1728  
Helena, MT 59624-1728

Tyler Turner - Economist  
(406)-444-2992  
tturner@mt.gov

October 20, 2006

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **MONTANA EMPLOYMENT PICTURE REMAINS STABLE**

HELENA, Mont. --- Montana's employment indicators remained stable in September, showing little change from the previous month. The state's unemployment rate increased from 3.5% in August, to 3.6% in September. Employment fell by 200 total jobs over the same time period. Neither decline indicated a significant change in the state's economy.

"In this time of record low unemployment and the impending retirement of baby boomers, Montana must explore proactive measures for attracting and retaining our youth," said Department of Labor and Industry Commissioner Keith Kelly. "The next generation isn't looking for jobs, they want careers."

Private Education and Health Services\*\* saw the largest gain in jobs, adding over 1,400 positions, most of which were accounted for with the beginning of fall semester. Leisure and Hospitality increased by 600, Trade, Transportation, and Utilities added 200, and Manufacturing added 100 jobs. Natural Resources and Mining and Financial Activities saw no change in employment, while Other Services\*\* declined by 100. Construction, Professional and Business Services, and Information\*\* each showed a loss of 200 positions. Government saw the largest decline at 400 jobs.

Additional information related to this employment situation press release can be found by visiting the Research and Analysis website at [www.ourfactsyourfuture.org](http://www.ourfactsyourfuture.org)

###

*\*Unemployment figures are seasonally-adjusted. Seasonally-adjusted numbers remove the effects of events that follow a more or less regular month-to-month pattern each year. These adjustments make nonseasonal patterns easier to identify. The margin of error for the unemployment rate is plus or minus 0.8 percentage points at the 90 percent confidence level. All questions relating to the calculation of unemployment rates should be directed to Tyler Turner, Economist with the Montana Department of Labor and Industry's Research and Analysis Bureau.*

*\*\*These industry sectors are not-seasonally adjusted.*

**\*\*\*\*\* INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON THE INTERNET \*\*\*\*\***

**County unemployment rates are also available in our monthly economic bulletin, *Montana Economy at a Glance*, and on our website.**

**Labor Force data for Montana Indian Reservations is available on the Research and Analysis Bureau's website at:**

[www.ourfactsyourfuture.org/?PAGEID=67&SUBID=121](http://www.ourfactsyourfuture.org/?PAGEID=67&SUBID=121)

**The October 2006 Labor Situation Report will be released Tuesday November 21, 2006.**